

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 240319

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 240319

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ATTEND BURMA RESEARCH CONGRESS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM SOCIAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR F. K. LEHMAN OF UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FOR TRAVEL FUNDS TO ATTEND BURMA RESEARCH CONGRESS THIS DECEMBER. LEHMAN CLAIMS THAT, DURING HIS PRIVATE TRIP TO RANGOON THIS SUMMER, HE WAS INFORMED BY "FRIENDS WELL UP IN THE UNIVERSITY AND CENTRAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION" THAT HE COULD ATTEND IF HE HAPPENED TO BE IN TOWN AT THE TIME. HE WOULD BE ATTENDING IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP OF THE AAS AND WOULD NOT PLAN TO PRESENT A PAPER.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT DEPARTMENT FUNDS MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON LEHMAN'S PROPOSED TRIP. WE ARE REMINDED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT METZNER FROM NEW DELHI ATTENDED ONE OF THESE CONGRESSES, BUT BELIEVE THE CIRCUMSTANCES MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT. AS THE RESEARCH CONGRESS HAS GUB SANCTION WE BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE WHAT HIGH LEVEL FRIENDS MAY HAVE TOLD LEHMAN, BURMESE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL SHOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBTAINED FOR HIS ATTENDANCE. WE WANT TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING

THE SLIGHT OPENING THAT HAS OCCURRED BY MOVING TOO FAR AND
TOO FAST.

3. YOUR VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. INGERSOLL

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